

## **VIRGINIA COMMISSION TO END HUNGER**

*November 6, 2025 Meeting.*

### **LEGISLATION FROM OTHER STATES**

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#### ***A. Technological Improvements to Improve Accessibility, Efficiency:***

**New Jersey [A5880](#) (2020-21) Authorizes the creation of a mobile app for state residents to register for SNAP and track their benefits.**

- **Summary:** App must be mobile friendly software, available in multiple languages, and free of charge, and specifically allow SNAP recipients to:
  - (i) View his SNAP case status and current benefits he receives;
  - (ii) Request an electronic benefit transfer card or a replacement card;
  - (iii) Upload and submit required documents for continued participation in SNAP and track the current processing status of those documents;
  - (iv) Receive notices and updates regarding important deadlines or actions; etc.
- **[Fiscal:](#)** Appropriates \$2 million;
  - Requires the department to apply for federal grants through the SNAP Process and Technology Improvement Grants program (supports efforts by state agencies to develop and implement projects that focus on improving the quality and efficiency of SNAP operations and processes by competitively awarding up to \$5 million in SNAP Process and Technology Improvement Grants each federal fiscal year (FFY));
  - Notes that all SNAP administrative costs are shared between the State and federal government, with the federal government contributing approximately 50 percent & automated data processing development and operation is an authorized category of reimbursable administrative expense. Therefore, to the extent that the bill increases costs to the department, it will also increase federal revenue received by the State.

**New Jersey [A4703](#) (2019) "Anti-Hunger Link".**

- **Summary:** Requires establishment and maintenance of an “Anti-Hunger Link” on the official website of every State executive department that directs the website user to a dedicated Internet webpage that lists all of the emergency food programs in the State, including, emergency meal providers, food pantries, soup kitchens, child and senior feeding programs, faith-based anti-hunger initiatives, and other food programs
- **[Fiscal:](#)** indeterminate

#### ***B. Food-as-Medicine:***

**Rhode Island [S2592](#) (2024) (failed).**

- **Summary:** Authorizes the executive office of health and human services to establish a program to establish coverage for evidenced-based nutritional assistance and medically tailored meals, groceries and produce prescriptions (fruit and vegetable prescriptions or

vouchers provided by medical professionals for persons with diet-related diseases or food insecurity), and other interventions for certain beneficiaries where there is a clinical need.

**Illinois [HB5249](#) (2024) (failed).**

- **Summary:** Provides that subject to federal approval, within 12 months after the effective date of the amendatory Act, nutrition care services and medical nutrition therapy provided by a registered dietitian licensed under the Dietitian Nutritionist Practice Act who is acting within the scope of his or her license shall be covered under the medical assistance program. Provides that the covered services may be aimed at prevention, delay, management, treatment, or rehabilitation of a disease or condition and include nutrition assessment, nutrition intervention, nutrition counseling, and nutrition monitoring and evaluation. Requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to apply for any federal waiver or Title XIX State Plan amendment, if required, to implement the amendatory Act.

***C. Mitigating food desert & food insecurity in underserved areas:***

**Delaware [SB254](#) Delaware Grocery Initiative.**

- **Summary:** Defines food desert for the purposes of the Delaware grocery initiative and requires the Office of State Planning Coordination to (i) study food insecurity in urban and rural food deserts, including through "an exploration of the reasons for current market failures, potential policy solutions, geographic trends, and the need for independent grocers," and (ii) identify communities at risk of becoming food deserts
- **Fiscal:** over the three years the study & initiative are set up, cost is estimated as:
  - FY 2025: \$382,861;
  - FY 2026: \$517,406;
  - FY 2027: \$528,778

**New Jersey [A4704](#) (2018-19). Food desert pilot program.**

- **Summary:** Directs the Department of Agriculture to establish a two-year pilot program to "[provide](#) residents of food desert communities with access to fresh and affordable produce. In establishing the program, the department shall select one or more partnering providers to establish weekly markets in three food desert communities, one of which shall be located in a rural area, in order to make fruits and vegetables more affordable to families and individuals with limited access to fresh food."

**Illinois - [HB3157](#) (2017).**

- **Summary:** Requires Dep't of Agriculture to identify and track geographical areas in this State that are food deserts
- **Fiscal:** About \$250,000 annually

***D. Mitigating Senior Food Insecurity:***

**[DC No Senior Hungry Omnibus Amendment Act of 2022](#), Section 319. Senior nutrition services communications plan.**

- **Summary:** Requires the Department to implement a plan that:
  - (i) Describes the outreach needs of the District's food insecure senior population and best practices for communicating with this population, including senior residents who are difficult to reach, such as those who are not currently participating in available programming;
  - (ii) Requires the Department to disseminate information about all senior nutrition services provided by the District using best practices for reaching seniors, including an annual mailer to District seniors that lists nutrition services, including how to enroll in such services;
  - (iii) Cross-promotes senior nutrition services;
  - (iv) Provides annual trainings for all senior-facing District employees and community-based organizations on nutrition services that are available to District seniors;
  - (v) Provides outreach to physicians and clinicians serving seniors so that they are able to provide appropriate referrals for their patients using existing referral systems; and
  - (vi) Details how the Department, in partnership with the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, will update its websites and application portals for senior nutrition services using best practices for senior-facing technology, taking into account access to and familiarity with technology among the population being served."
- **Fiscal:** Estimate is for the entire bill which contained several other provisions/measures; appears that the cost of section 319 (senior nutrition services communications plan) combined with two other sections of the act would be \$732,000 in the first year and \$2.7 million over four years. Sec. 319 alone (referenced above) was the least expensive of the other two sections included in that cost estimate, though difficult to determine by how much.

#### **E. Other**

##### **West Virginia [HB4478](#) (2018) Shared Table Initiative.**

- **Summary:** Initiative to encourage schools to (i) collect unused food appropriate for redistribution and make that food available throughout the day to students who may be hungry, (ii) provide a method for discrete distribution of that food to be taken home by kids with food insecurity, and (iii) donate any unused food to local food pantries and other entities that distribute food to those in need. Directs state board of education to promulgate a rule providing policy guidance to local school boards on the management and distribution of excess school food consistent with state and county health department and United States Food and Drug Administration requirements and guidelines for the distribution of excess foods and requires each local school board to establish a program to assist and encourage schools to participate in it.
- **Fiscal:** negligible/none

##### **Louisiana [HCR35](#) (2022).**

- **Summary:** Requests a study to be conducted and recommendations made to the legislature concerning means by which to eliminate "benefits cliffs" in public assistance programs.

#### **Oregon 458.530 Policy on Hunger:**

- **Summary:** Policy declaration is symbolic but it is used in future legislation as a vehicle/justification for expanding initiatives to reduce hunger and to increase funding for the Oregon Hunger Task Force

#### **NY SB S6083A (2017-18).**

- **Summary:** Provides a tax credit to eligible grocery stores, food brokers, wholesalers, restaurants, or catering services in the amount of 25% of the wholesale value of that entity's qualified donations, defined as "a donation of apparently wholesome food that is a surplus or about-to-waste food", made to any eligible food pantry during the taxable year
- **Note:** Could build upon current VA law, [§ 58.1-439.12:12](#), which provides a tax credit for "any person engaged in the business of farming" that donates "food crops grown or wholesome food produced by the person in the Commonwealth to a nonprofit food bank" in the amount of 50 percent of the FMV of such food crops or wholesome food

#### **Maryland SB0121 (2022) (passed).**

- **Summary:** Establishes
  - (i) The Maryland Food and Agricultural Resiliency Mechanism Grant Program and Fund to provide grants to food banks and charitable emergency food providers to alleviate food insecurity;
  - (ii) The Maryland Farms and Families Program to double the purchasing power of food-insecure Maryland residents with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables and to increase revenue for farmers through redemption of federal nutrition benefits at Maryland farmers markets. Provides grants to nonprofit orgs to match purchases made with SNAP&WIC benefits at participating farmers markets and farm stands and to implement the program.
  - (iii) The Maryland Farm-to-School Meal Grant Pilot Program and Fund to award grants to eligible school districts that include a local food component in school meals and to incentivize the production, procurement, and provision of local foods in school meals.
- **Fiscal** (for all programs in bill):
  - FY2024:\$755,000;
  - FY2025: \$744,800 (last yr of pilot program, which awards \$250,000 total in grants to schools for local food each year for two years);
  - FY2026: \$453,800;
  - FY2027: \$455,300